



NORTH DAKOTA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE
1ST FLOOR JUDICIAL WING ROOM 117
BISMARCK ND 58505
701-328-2428 PHONE 701-328-1537 FAX
www.health.state.nd.us/ndiac

NEWSLETTER OF THE ND INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

WINTER 2001

Governor John Hoeven
NDIAC Chairman

Cheryl Kulas
NDIAC Executive Director

Chairman Tex Hall
Three Affiliated Tribes

Chairman Phillip Longie
Spirit Lake Nation

Chairman Charles Murphy
Standing Rock Nation

Chairman Richard Monette
Turtle Mt. Band of Chippewa

Chairwoman Cynthia LaCounte
Trenton Indian Service Area

Phil Baird
At Large Member

Jim Laducer
At Large Member

Kevin Wheeler
At Large Member

Governor Hoeven Names Tribal Appointees

Committee on Aging

Frederick Baker of New Town, Betty Keegan of Rolla, Gloria Left Hand of St. Michael, Vic Renville of Williston, and Elaine Keepseagle of Standing Rock have been appointed to three-year terms on the Governor's Committee on Aging.

Baker is retired from Indian Health Services; Keegan is retired from Rolette County Social Services; Left Hand is the Spirit Lake Nation Healthy Start coordinator; Renville retired as captain from the Williams County Sheriff's Department and is currently on the board of directors for the Trenton Area Service Area and the Family Recovery Home; and Keepseagle is the director of the Standing Rock Nation Community Health Representative Program.

The committee's major duties are to prepare for and perform follow-up duties in connection with state, regional and national conferences; and to encourage citizen interest, participation, and cooperation with state departments, agencies and other organizations in developing needed services, facilities, and opportunities for the aging.

Workforce Development Council

David Gipp of Bismarck, and Leo Cummings of New Town have been appointed to three-year terms on the council. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Cheryl Kulas has also been added to the board as the ex-officio representative of the Indian Affairs Commission.

This Council advises the governor and the public concerning the nature and extent of workforce development and economic development needs in North Dakota, and how to meet these needs effectively while maximizing the efficient use of available resources and avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.

Youth Development Council

Leo Cummings of New Town, Cheryl Penney of Fort Yates, Pat Peltier of Belcourt, Jolene Crosswhite of Fort Totten, Sherman Brunelle of Bismarck, Ethel Keely of Bismarck, and Jodie Scheer of Valley City have been appointed to three-year terms on the council. Cummings is the Administrator of the Tribal One Stop Career Center for the Three Affiliated Tribes; Penney is the Workforce Investment Act Director for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Peltier is the Workforce Investment Act Director for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa; Crosswhite is the Workforce Investment Director for the Spirit Lake Nation; and Brunelle is the director of the United Tribes Technical College.

The Youth Development Council advises the North Dakota Workforce Development Council on the development of youth employment and training policies, and oversees youth programs under the Workforce Investment Act.

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The next NDIAC quarterly meeting will be held in Bismarck on Thursday January 3rd in the Governor's Conference Room at the State Capitol at 1:30pm. The meeting is open to the public.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Commerce Department and so much more: ND Legislature boosts economic development

The new entity brings together ED&F, the Tourism Department, the Division of Community Services, and the Workforce Development program. An Economic Development cabinet will advise the Director of Commerce.

The Commerce Department has a budget of \$5.2 million to market both economic development and tourism, an increase of \$1.7 million over last biennium. The budget includes nearly \$1 million to promote North Dakota as a travel destination for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. And the new combined department concentrates the state's development resources in a flexible, user-friendly way.

"We have combined the dollars for capital formation, workforce development, and marketing, instead of having small pots of money all over the place that are hard to use efficiently," said Hoeven. "The Commerce Department will offer one-stop shopping for those seeking to start or expand businesses in North Dakota. We'll provide a single point of contact, more efficient service, and less red tape."

In other moves designed to encourage economic development, the 2001 Legislature:

- Increased renaissance zone tax credits.
- Passed several new tax credits to provide the tools for capital formation and investment. New tax credits include a 30 percent tax credit for investments in primary sector businesses; a 30 percent tax credit on individual investments of up to \$20,000 in value-added agricultural ventures; and tax credits for investment in wind, geothermal, and solar power development.
- Passed a sales tax exemption on computer equipment for expansion of technology-based businesses.
- Increased the Beginning Entrepreneur Loan Fund from \$500,000 to \$4 million, and increased the individual loan cap to \$100,000.
- Appropriated \$2.35 million for investment purposes for "Primary Sector" business in North Dakota to the ND Development Fund.
- Increased the Work Force 2000 training program to \$2.1 million, up \$850,000 from last biennium. Workforce training delivered through the university system increased from \$875,000 to \$1.3 million.
- Established greater uniformity with other states' securities laws to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses raising capital.
- Created investment tax credits for value-added ag ventures, and a value-added ag promotion board in the Commerce
- Approved the executive recommendation for spurring economic growth by extending several successful loan and interest buy-down programs in the Bank Of North Dakota: \$6 million - Partnership in Assisting Community Expansion (PACE); \$1.5 million for AG PACE; \$1.0 million for the Beginning Farmer program.
- Created investment tax credits for value-added ag ventures, and a value-added ag promotion board in the Commerce Department to proactively promote opportunities in value-added processing.
- Provided \$2.5 million to enhance ethanol production in North Dakota.
- Provided \$89.6 million in funding to develop the statewide high-speed data, video, and voice network linking North Dakota high schools, colleges, courthouses and state government agencies. The network also provides the infrastructure necessary for creation of tech-based businesses throughout the state.

[above article is reprinted from ND Dept. of Economic Development & Finance May 2001 Newsletter]

23rd Energy Generation Conference

The 23rd Annual Energy Generation Conference is going to be held January 22-24, 2002 at the Bismarck Civic Center.

The public is welcome to visit the Civic Center Exhibit Hall on January 22nd from 5 to 7pm at the Exhibitor Showcase Social to view more than 160 exhibits from across the country.

To register or for more information call the Conference Coordinator, Bismarck State College, Corporate & Continuing Education at 701-328-9841 or 1-800-852-5685 or visit www.bismarckstate.com/cce/energy

Minority Contractors Association Conference

The 26th Annual Minority Contractors Association (MCA) is scheduled for February 27 - 28, 2002 at the Doublewood Inn of Bismarck.

Activities at the this year's conference will include presentations, workshops, trade fair, socials, the banquet and awards ceremony, and a dance.

As of middle december, the final agenda and presentation topics were being finalized, however the tentative topics include: Access to Market: Business-to-Government, Access to Capital, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, OSHA Compliance, Disaster Preparedness, 8 (a) Program Updates, HUB Zone and SDB Certification, Business Insurance, SBA Guarantee Bond Program, and the Mentor-Protege Program.

The MCA conference attracts a wide-range of small, minority-owned businesses as well as tribal, state, federal, and local government officials.

HEALTH CARE

Native American Children Enrollment in Healthy Steps Program at 9.3%

As of November 2001, 2,603 previously uninsured children age 18 and younger were enrolled in Healthy Steps, North Dakota's children's health insurance plan. 9.3% or about 241 of those were Native American Children. On May 1, 2001, the state covered about 62 percent of the children projected to qualify for Healthy Steps.



Efforts to enroll more eligible children continue. Public and private sector collaboration resulted in a Robert Wood Johnson Covering Kids grant, which emphasizes outreach in rural North Dakota and on Spirit Lake and Turtle Mountain reservations in ND.

The Native Indian Families pilot project will identify and enroll children who are uninsured and eligible for existing services. Cultural congruence and buy-in from local leaders will be essential; therefore, coalition-building between and among tribal and county representatives is crucial. Outreach staff personnel work in collaboration with local children's health services agencies to provide information about programs and eligibility. For more information about the pilot project on reservations in ND contact: Gloria Lefthand wuth Healthy Start in North Dakota Inc. P.O. Box 794 Rolla, ND 58367 (701) 766-1244

Families who do not meet Healthy Steps income guidelines will be referred to the ND Medicaid program or the Blue Cross Blue Shield Caring Program to meet the health coverage needs of their uninsured children

Who Can Be Covered?

Healthy Steps insurance is for children who:

- are not covered under other health insurance
- are 18 years of age or younger
- do not qualify for the ND Medicaid Program
- live in families with qualifying incomes
- are ND residents

How to apply for Healthy Steps insurance coverage

Call 1-800-755-2604 to request an application by mail or for information. Applications are also available at most county social service offices and on the internet at www.state.nd.us/childrenshealth

What services does Healthy Steps cover?

Clinic services, inpatient and outpatient hospitalization, prescriptions, mental health services, preventive well-child exams, immunizations, dental, and vision services are covered. For questions about coverage, please refer to the benefits handbook provided by Noridian Mutual Insurance, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan in North Dakota (BCBSND) or call their toll-free number at 1-800-342-4718.

What does Healthy Steps cost?

Because of the unique relationship between the Federal government and Tribal governments, Native American families will not be charged co-payments.

Is Indian Health Services considered to be health insurance?

No. Indian Health Services is NOT health insurance. Native American families should apply for Healthy Steps .

Breast & cervical cancer coverage takes effect

On July 1, 2001, North Dakota joined many other states in offering Medicaid coverage for breast and cervical cancer treatment for qualifying low-income women. To be eligible, women must be uninsured, younger than age 65, and must be diagnosed through the Department of Health's Women's Way screening program.

Until enacted into law by the 2001 Legislature, some low-income women diagnosed through Women's Way faced a predicament if they did not have health coverage. The change will benefit women whose incomes make them eligible for free screenings, but who do not have the means of paying for treatment if cancer is detected.

The department estimates that about 23 uninsured women per year in North Dakota may meet the criteria. Treatment costs are expected to be about \$10,000 per individual and will be paid through the North Dakota Medicaid program. The new coverage will cost about \$114,755 in state tobacco settlement funds over the 2001-2003 biennium.

This enhancement of women's health services was made possible when Congress passed legislation in October 2000 permitting state Medicaid programs to cover women who are screened for breast and cervical cancer under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention early detection program (Women's Way in North Dakota).

For Women's Way information, please contact the local coordinator by calling 1-800-44WOMEN (1-800-449-6636).

Governor Hoeven Appoints New Health Officer

Gov. John Hoeven has appointed Dr. Terry Dwelle, an infectious disease and public health specialist, to lead the North Dakota Department of Health as the new state health officer.

Dwelle first joined the North Dakota Department of Health in July 2000 as a consultant, and in September 2000 became the department's chief medical officer.

Prior to joining the Department of Health, Dwelle worked with the North Dakota School of Medicine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indian Health Services.

Dr. Dwelle's service to the Indian community includes serving as Clinical Director, Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Fort Totten, N.D., and pediatric consultant to Fort Berthold and Turtle Mountain Indian reservations, 1977 to 1980. He has also served as a Reserve officer, Indian Health Service, 1980 to present.

EDUCATION & TOURISM

Nominations due February 1st for Gates Millenium Scholars Scholarship

Nominations are due February 1, 2002 for the Gates Millenium Scholars Scholarship.

The Gates Foundation is dedicated to reducing financial obstacles that prevent many deserving students from fulfilling their potential.

The process starts with nominations by any professional educator (high school principal, guidance counselors, teacher, tribal education leaders) of significant financial need students with outstanding leadership and academic qualities.

Application and nomination details are available at www.gmsp.org and www.gatesfoundation.org or by calling 1-877-690-GMSP.

Standing Rock Scenic Byway Approved

Dave Sprynczynatyk, director of the State Department of Transportation, approved the designation of a 40-mile stretch from Cannon Ball to the South Dakota border on the Standing Rock Reservation at the recommendation of a special Scenic Byway Commission.

There are only six other Scenic Byways and Backways in North Dakota, about 200 miles in all. This is the only one that runs entirely through a reservation.

Standing Rock plans to give history tours, put up interpretive signs and centers along the route, and produce brochures and travelers' helpers, like cassette tapes, that tell the story while the scenery rolls by.

Scenic Byways and Backways are designated by thick dots on the state highway map. Standing Rock will get that designation on the next map prepared by the state for Highways 24 and 1806.

Standing Rock has also made an application with South Dakota to have the Scenic Byway continue from the state line to Mobridge, S.D. and eventually, the Tribe plans to apply to become a National Scenic Byway.

Native American Training Institute Conference

The Native American Training Institute will hold its 1st Annual State Indian Child Welfare Act Conference on January 29 - 31 at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck. The conference is titled: *"In the Spirit of ICWA: Protecting Children, Preserving Families"*.

To register, please contact Cheryl at the Native American Training Institute at 701-255-6374.

Turtle Mt Community College Receives Appropriations for Wind Energy Curriculum and Project Peacemaker

Turtle Mountain Community College was approved for a \$500,000 project to put up a wind turbine and start a wind energy curriculum as part of a larger energy and water appropriations bill for the State.

Also, the Turtle Mountain Community College's Department of Justice was awarded \$350,000 for *Project Peacemaker*.

Project Peacemaker (Providing Education And Community Empowerment by Maintaining And Keeping the Earth and all our Relatives through Tribal Justice Systems) is a collaborative initiative involving the UCLA American Indian Studies Center, the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, four tribal colleges (Turtle Mountain Community College, Salish Kootenai College, Dine College, and Northwest Indian College), and other tribal governmental institutions (such as tribal courts systems, legal departments, and bar associations). Project Peacemaker is designed to develop, pilot, and implement Tribal Legal Studies curricula for tribally controlled colleges.

Meetings to help promote ND to be held in January

The State Historical Society of ND will host a series of statewide forums called "Community Conversations" to bring together both local communities and state agencies to discuss the state's marketing efforts.

The public is invited to come participate in these discussions. At each forum the Historical Society will make a presentation followed by updates from other agencies and a time for discussion by all attending. Refreshments will be served. Each event will begin at 7pm local time:

-Tuesday Jan. 15 - Williston Community Library

-Wednesday Jan. 16 - Minot, Scandinavian Heritage Center

-Tuesday Jan. 22 - Dickinson, Joachim Regional Museum

-Wednesday Jan. 23 - Bismarck, ND Heritage Center

Upcoming Events:

North Dakota

- January 21 Governors Conference on Cultural Diversity - "*Embracing a More Diverse North Dakota*" - University of Mary, Bismarck - Monday, January 21, 2002 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. Featured Speakers: are Governor John Hoeven & Father William C. Sherman. For more info or to register call the Human Rights Division of the ND Department of Labor at (701) 328-2660 OR 800-582-8032 (TOLL FREE)
- January 22-24 23rd Annual Energy Generation Conference - Civic Center, Bismarck - to register or for more info call (701) 328-9841 or 1-800-852-5685 or visit www.bismarckstate.com/cce/energy
- January 29-31 1st Annual State Indian Child Welfare Act Conference. "*In the Spirit of ICWA: Protecting Children, Preserving Families*" Radisson Inn - Bismarck - To register, please contact Cheryl at the Native American Training Institute at 701-255-6374.
- February 6-7 2002 ND Housing Conference - *Pursuing the North Dakota Dream* - Radisson Inn, Bismarck - For more info call 328-8080 or visit www.ndhfa.org
- February 27-28 The 26th Annual Minority Contractors Association (MCA) - February 27 - 28, 2002 - Doublewood Inn, Bismarck

National

- January 28-31 2002 Indian Health Service Annual Meeting of the National Councils of Clinical Directors, Service Unit Directors, Chief Medical Officers, and Nurse Consultants - '*Best Practices - Sharing Our Strengths*' - San Diego, CA
For more info call (602) 364-7777 or register online at www2.ihs.gov/NCCD/index.asp
- April 14-17 National Indian Child Welfare Association 20th Annual '*Protecting Our Children*' Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect - 'The Lessons of a Stolen Generation' - Duluth MN - For more info call Kim Just at (503) 222-4044 ext. 113
- September 4-6 National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) "*Healing Ourselves, Healing Our Communities, Healing Our World*" - Convention Center, Albuquerque NM. For more info call Eva at (505) 292-2001.

Resources:

State

North Dakota Homepage - www.discovernd.com
North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission - www.health.state.nd.us/ndiac/
North Dakota Senior Info-Line - 1-800-451-8693 - www.ndseniorinfoonline.com
North Dakota Housing Finance Agency - www.ndhfa.org

Tribal

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippew www.chippewaonline.com
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe - www.standingrock.org
Spirit Lake Nation - www.spiritlakenation.com
Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation - www.mhanation.com
Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe - <http://www.swcc.cc.sd.us>
United Tribes Technical College - www.unitedtribestech.com
- for employment opportunities at UTTC call the personnel office at 701-222-3285

National Training for Indian Country:

Native American Training Institute - (701) 255-6374
Council-Lodge Institute, Inc. - www.council-lodge.com - (800) 726-1674
DCI America - www.dciamerica.com - (800) 888-1027
Rocky Mountain Records Management - (505) 837-0637

CAN'T AFFORD TELEPHONE SERVICE?

LINK UP AND LIFELINE PROGRAMS FOR TRIBAL AREAS CAN HELP

HOME TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

These programs allow eligible persons on tribal lands to receive local telephone service for \$1.00 a month plus taxes. They also offer assistance with telephone service hook up costs.

LINK UP

- Assists with initial hook up charges for primary telephone service (\$100 maximum).
- Telephone company may set up a payment plan on the balance and waive interest.
- Contact your local telephone company to find out if you qualify for hook up service without a deposit.

LIFELINE

- Provides primary local telephone service for \$1.00 a month (plus taxes) for eligible persons.
- Applies only to primary local telephone service in the home.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Residents of tribal lands whose income is equal to or less than 195% of the federal poverty guidelines

OR

Residents of tribal lands participating in at least one of the following programs:

- BIA General Assistance
- Food Distribution Program
- Food Stamps benefit recipient
- Head Start or Early Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard)
- Heating Assistance
- Medicaid
- National School Free Lunch Program
- WIC
- SSI
- TANF
- North Dakota Healthy Steps – Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE TELEPHONE SERVICES

You may self certify at your local telephone office that you qualify for one of the above programs.

OR

When you qualify for any programs administered through your county social services office you will *automatically* receive a Qualifying Certificate within a month by mail. Provide the Qualifying Certificate to your local telephone company and do the necessary paperwork.

OR

When you qualify for any programs administered by tribal offices, the tribal program administrator can provide verification of eligibility to the telephone company. Contact the telephone company to do the necessary paperwork.

HOW LONG WILL THESE BENEFITS CONTINUE?

If you no longer meet the eligibility guidelines above, you no longer qualify for Link Up or Lifeline.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on ***Link Up and Lifeline***, please contact **your local telephone company** or the ND Public Service Commission, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480, 701-328-2400, sab@oracle.psc.state.nd.us